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EXAMINER

KAPLAN, HAL IRA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2836	

DATE MAILED: 02/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/661,816

Applicant(s)

MUCHOW ET AL.

Examiner

Hal I. Kaplan

Art Unit

2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-141 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-141 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>915/03, 624/04, 11/29/04</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Paragraph 38, line 1 contains the word "includes". It appears this should be "include". Paragraph 54, line 9 contains the phrase "so that can perform". It appears this should read "so that they can perform". Paragraph 62, line 1 contains the word "includes". It appears this should be "include". Paragraph 73, line 7 contains the phrase "in addition, control panel". It appears this should read "in addition, the control panel".

Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 145 in Figure 14 (see Specification, paragraph 68, line 15). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 95 objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 95 depends from claim 94. From other claims, it appears claim 95 should depend from claim 79. Appropriate correction is required.

4. Claim 69 objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. It is implicit in the step of storing at least one power generating device within a housing, where the device can be coupled to the housing, that the device is first detached from the housing.

Double Patenting

5. Applicant is advised that should claim 9 be found allowable, claim 23 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Art Unit: 2836

7. Claims 6, 20, and 112 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Claims 6 and 20 recite a fourth type of power generating device, different from the first three, coupled to the transportable housing. This is not disclosed in the specification.

Claim 112 recites the limitation "fixedly securing at least one power generating device coupling element to a junction between two of the side walls". As defined in the specification, drawings, and claim 109, from which claim 112 depends, the two side walls (38) do not intersect (see Specification, paragraph 40, and Figure 3).

8. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

9. Claims 54, 75, 101, 109, and 111-113 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 54, 75, 101, and 109 recite the limitation "the height of the housing is approximately 8.5 feet or less". It is not clear whether the height of the housing has to be approximately 8.5 feet, or how much greater or less the height of the housing can be. See Specification, paragraph 37, lines 6-7 and MPEP §2173.05(c)(II). Claims 111-113 inherit this deficiency.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

11. Claims 1, 5, 6, 8-10, 12, 13, 16, 18-24, 27, 28, 31, 33-38, 42-44, 47, 50-52, 55, 59-61, 114-119, 123-125, 129, 132, 133, and 139 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the international patent application publication of Pas (WO 03/008803).

As to claims 1, 18, and 23, Pas, drawn to a mobile wind and solar energy aggregate, teaches, in Figures 1 and 2, a method of producing and delivering power at a desired location, comprising: coupling a first power generating device (9,10) of a first type to a transportable housing (1) (see page 5, lines 3-4 and 13); coupling a second power generating device (2,3,4) of a second type to the transportable housing (1), wherein the first type of power generating device is different than the second type of power generating device (see page 4, lines 31-33); receiving power from at least one of the first and second power generating devices (9,10,2,3,4) within the transportable housing (1) (see page 6, lines 2-4); and providing access to the received power in a plurality of different electrical configurations (see page 6, lines 16-20).

As to claims 5 and 19, the method of Pas further comprises coupling a third power generating device (17) of a third type to the transportable housing (1), the third type of power generating device being different than the first and second types of power generating devices (see page 6, lines 13-14).

As to claims 6 and 20, the method of Pas further comprises coupling a fourth power generating device (18) of a fourth type to the transportable housing, the fourth type of power generating device being different than the first, second, and third types of power generating devices (see page 6, line 15).

As to claims 8-10, 21, 22, 24, 34, 35, and 115-117, in the method of Pas, the first type of power generating device (9,10) includes a solar powered generating device, the second type of power generating device (2,3,4) includes a wind powered generating device, and the third type of power generating device (17) includes a fuel powered generating device (see page 4, line 31 through page 5, line 2; page 5, lines 3-6 and 13; and page 6, line 13).

As to claims 12, 27, 51, 55, and 114, the housing of Pas includes a length, width and height approximately equal to a standard ISO freight container (see page 3, lines 16-18).

As to claims 13, 28, 47, and 129, the housing of Pas is a storage housing for equipment (see page 6, lines 5-15).

As to claims 16 and 31, the method of Pas further comprises powering at least one component (18,22) within the transportable housing (1) with the power received (see page 6, lines 18-20).

As to claim 33, the power station of Pas comprises a plurality of coupling elements (2,3,13,12,14) secured to the housing and configured to allow for the attaching of more than one type of power generating device to the housing (see page 4, line 31 through page 5, line 17).

As to claim 36, the fuel powered generating device of Pas includes a fuel cell (17) (see page 6, line 13).

As to claims 37 and 118, the device of Pas further includes a backup power source (22) (see page 6, lines 11-12).

As to claims 38, 84, and 119, the solar powered generating device of Pas includes at least one solar panel (10) coupled to at least one of the coupling elements (14) (see page 5, lines 3-6).

As to claims 42 and 123, the solar powered generating device of Pas includes an array of solar panels, the array configured to receive another array of solar panels (see page 5, lines 19-23).

As to claims 43 and 124, the at least one solar panel of Pas is partially supported by at least one adjustable strut (12) (see page 5, lines 13-15).

As to claims 44 and 125, the at least one adjustable strut of Pas includes a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end being coupled to the at least one solar panel (9), and the distal end capable of being connected to the housing (see page 5, lines 13-17 and Figure 1).

As to claims 50 and 132, the housing of Pas includes control equipment for the power generating device (see page 6, lines 5-15).

As to claims 52 and 133, the housing of Pas includes a length, width and height, and the length of the housing (1) is approximately 20 feet (see page 3, lines 16-18).

As to claims 59 and 139, the housing of Pas includes supports (28) located at corners of the housing (see page 4, lines 26-27).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

14. Claims 7, 26, 45, 46, and 126-128 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pas.

As to claims 7, 26, 45, and 126, Pas discloses all of the claimed features, as set forth above, except for the step of coupling a first power generating device to the housing including attaching a vertical pole along a corner of the transportable housing. Pas discloses attaching a vertical pole (2) to a transportable housing (1), but the pole (2) of Pas is in the center of the housing, not along a corner; however, it would have

Art Unit: 2836

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to build the device of Pas with the vertical pole and wind turbine attached along a corner of the housing instead of in the center, because it has been held that mere rearrangement of parts does not create a patentable distinction where the operation of the device is not modified and the prior art provides a motivation to make the necessary changes in the reference; in the case of Pas, attaching the vertical pole at the corner would make it easier to stack the container for shipping to its destination because the coupling element fixed to the housing at the base of the pole can be placed out of the way so the container can be placed or stacked flat against another container. *In re Japikse*, 181 F.2d 1019, 86 USPQ 70 (CCPA 1950) (Claims to a hydraulic power press which read on the prior art except with regard to the position of the starting switch were held unpatentable because shifting the position of the starting switch would not have modified the operation of the device.); *In re Kuhle*, 526 F.2d 553, 188 USPQ 7 (CCPA 1975) (the particular placement of a contact in a conductivity measuring device was held to be an obvious matter of design choice); *Ex parte Chicago Rawhide Mfg. Co.*, 223 USPQ 351, 353 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1984). See MPEP §2144.04(VI)(C).

As to claims 46 and 128, the device of Pas includes a wind powered generating device (4) coupled to the at least one pole (2).

As to claim 127, the device of Pas further includes at least one supplemental pole (3) coupled to the at least one pole (2).

Art Unit: 2836

15. Claims 2-4, 64, and 141 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pas in view of the US patent application publication of Cordelli et al. (2003/0230934).

As to claim 2, Pas discloses all of the claimed features, as set forth above, except for the plurality of different electrical configurations including alternating current and direct current. Cordelli, drawn to a modular power supply with multiple and interchangeable output units for AC- and DC-powered equipment, teaches, in Figures 1b, 2, and 3, a portable power supply, within a transportable housing (111), providing access to the received power in a plurality of different electrical configurations, wherein the plurality of different electrical configurations includes alternating current (300) and direct current (200) (see paragraph 24, lines 1-10; paragraph 42, lines 1-3; and paragraph 43, lines 1-3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to configure the device of Pas to provide both alternating current and direct current, as taught by Cordelli, because the device could provide power to more different types of loads.

As to claim 3, in the device of Cordelli, the plurality of different electrical configurations includes a plurality of different voltages of alternating current and a plurality of different voltages of direct current (see paragraph 23, lines 1-6).

As to claims 4, 64, and 141, the device of Cordelli provides access to a plurality of electrical outlets (202,302) coupled to the transportable housing (111) (see paragraph 42, lines 1-5 and paragraph 43, lines 1-5).

Art Unit: 2836

16. Claims 11, 25, 65-70, 72, 73, 79-82, 84, 88-93, 97-99, 102, and 106 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pas in view of the US patent of Johnson.

As to claims 11, 25, 65-70, 72, 73, 79-82, 84, 88-93, 97-99, 102, and 106, Pas discloses all of the claimed features, as set forth above, except for storing at least one power generating device within a housing and removing the power generating device from the housing. Johnson, drawn to a portable power supply, teaches, in Figures 1 and 2, a power generating device (40) stored in a housing (30) from which it can be removed (see column 1, lines 40-42 and column 2, lines 22-25). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to build the device of Pas so that at least one power generating device can be removed and stored within the housing, in order to protect the power generating device during transport.

17. Claims 14, 15, 29, 30, 48, 49, 52-54, 63, 109, 113, 130-131, and 133-135 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pas in view of the article by Linda Hales entitled "FutureShack: A Home for the Displaced," The Washington Post, May 15, 2004. Although published in 2004, Hales is prior art with respect to Applicant's invention because it refers to the invention being conceived in 1985 and in use in 1999, before the invention thereof by Applicant.

As to claims 14, 29, 48, 109, and 130, Pas discloses all of the claimed features, as set forth above, except for the housing being a human shelter. Hales describes a first power generating device and a second power generating device coupled to a transportable housing, wherein the housing is a human shelter (see column 1, lines 9-

Art Unit: 2836

13 and column 4, lines 4-7). As to claim 109, the housing of Pas is not adapted to removably receive at least one power generating device, but it has been held that merely making parts separable does not create a patentable distinction. *In re Dulberg*, 289 F.2d 522, 523, 129 USPQ 348, 349 (CCPA 1961). See MPEP §2144.04(V)(C). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to build the device of Pas using a human shelter as the housing, in order to allow displaced or homeless people to live in it and use common electrical devices.

As to claims 15, 30, 40, and 131, the housing of Hales includes a climate controlled internal space (see column 4, lines 4-5).

As to claims 52 and 133, the housing of Hales includes a length, width and height, and the length of the housing is approximately 20 feet (see column 1, lines 23-27).

As to claims 53 and 134, the housing of Hales is approximately 8 feet in width (see column 1, lines 23-27).

As to claims 54, 109, and 135, the housing of Hales is approximately 8.5 feet in height.

As to claims 63 and 113, the housing of Hales further includes at least one door (front door) located behind access doors (hinged flap of steel) of the housing (see column 3, lines 6-9).

18. Claims 17, 32, 62, and 140 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pas in view of the US patent of Purkey (6,426,606).

As to claims 17, 32, 62, and 140, Pas discloses all of the claimed features, as set

Art Unit: 2836

forth above, except for at least one of remotely controlling and remotely monitoring at least one component coupled to the transportable housing. Purkey, drawn to an apparatus for providing supplemental power to an electrical system and related methods, teaches, in Figure 5, a portable power generating device (20) within a transportable housing (12), further comprising communications and control equipment (55) for remotely operating the power station (see column 5, lines 40-44; column 12, lines 52-55; and column 12, line 65 through column 13, line 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to build the device of Pas, including communications and control equipment for remotely operating the device, as taught by Purkey, in order to allow the operator to turn the power generating devices on and off from a remote location.

19. Claims 39-41, 111, and 120-122 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pas in view of the US patent of Glidden et al. (5,969,501).

As to claims 39, 111, and 120, Pas discloses all of the claimed features, as set forth above, except for one of the coupling elements including a removable bracket located at a junction of the top wall and one of the side walls. Glidden, drawn to a portable solar power system, teaches, in Figures 1-3, a transportable housing to which solar panels can be coupled, wherein one of the coupling elements includes a bracket (24) located at a junction of the top wall and one of the side walls (see column 3, lines 6-7 and Figures 2-3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to build the device of Pas with the solar panels mounted to the housing via a removable bracket, as taught by Glidden, because the solar panels and

Art Unit: 2836

bracket could then be safely stored inside the housing for shipping, and the housing could be more easily stacked or stored while being transported. The bracket of Glidden is not removable, but it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to use a removable bracket because it has been held that merely making parts separable does not create a patentable distinction. *In re Dulberg*, 289 F.2d 522, 523, 129 USPQ 348, 349 (CCPA 1961). See MPEP §2144.04(V)(C).

As to claims 40 and 121, the solar panels of Glidden are pivotably coupled to the bracket (24) (see column 3, lines 6-9).

As to claims 41 and 122, the device of Pas has 2 solar panels (9,10) that are independently pivotable relative to the housing (see page 5, lines 4-6 and 15-17).

20. Claims 56-58 and 136-138 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pas in view of the US patent of Fons (6,783,032).

As to claims 56 and 136, Pas discloses all of the claimed features, as set forth above, except for the housing being a modified standard ISO freight container. Fons, drawn to a steel container, especially intended for the transport of bulk goods, teaches, in Figures 1-3, a modified standard ISO freight container (1) (see column 3, lines 3-4 and 14-26). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to use a modified standard ISO freight container as the housing, because an ISO freight container is a standard size, which makes it easier to ship and transport the device.

As to claims 57 and 137, the modification to the container of Fons includes connector components (6,8) fixed to the container (1) to assist in securing coupling

Art Unit: 2836

elements (7) to the container, the connector components (6,8) configured to maintain the container (1) within ISO standards for shipping (see column 3, lines 14-26).

As to claims 58 and 138, the connector components of Fons include a plurality of rivnuts (see column 3, lines 25-26).

21. Claims 71, 74, 75, 94-96, 100, and 101 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pas in view of Johnson, and further in view of Hales.

As to claims 71 and 94, Pas in view of Johnson disclose all of the claimed features, as set forth above, except for the housing being a human shelter. Hales discloses the housing being a human shelter, as set forth above.

As to claims 74 and 100, the width of the housing of Hales is approximately 8 feet, as set forth above.

As to claims 75 and 101, the height of the housing of Hales is approximately 8.5 feet, as set forth above.

As to claim 95, the housing of Pas is a storage housing for equipment, as set forth above.

As to claim 96, the housing of Hales includes a climate controlled internal space, as set forth above.

22. Claims 76-78 and 103-105 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pas in view of Johnson, and further in view of Fons.

As to claims 76 and 103, Pas in view of Johnson disclose all of the claimed

Art Unit: 2836

features, as set forth above, except for the housing being a modified standard ISO freight container. Fons discloses a modified standard ISO freight container, as set forth above.

As to claims 77 and 104, the modification to the container of Fons includes connector components fixed to the container to assist in securing coupling elements to the container, the connector components configured to maintain the container within ISO standards for shipping, as set forth above.

As to claims 78 and 105, the connector components of Fons include a plurality of rivnuts, as set forth above.

23. Claims 83 and 85-87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pas in view of Johnson, and further in view of Glidden.

As to claim 83, Pas in view of Johnson disclose all of the claimed features, as set forth above, except for a backup power source. Glidden discloses a backup power source, as set forth above.

As to claim 85, Glidden discloses one of the coupling elements including a removable bracket located at a junction of the top wall and one of the side walls, as set forth above.

As to claim 86, the solar panels of Glidden are pivotably coupled to the bracket, as set forth above.

As to claim 87, the device of Pas has 2 solar panels that are independently pivotable relative to the housing, as set forth above.

Art Unit: 2836

24. Claim 107 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pas in view of Johnson, and further in view of Purkey.

Pas in view of Johnson disclose all of the claimed features, as set forth above, except for communications and control equipment. Purkey discloses communications and control equipment, as set forth above.

25. Claims 108 and 110 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pas in view of Johnson, and further in view of Cordelli.

As to claim 108, Pas in view of Johnson disclose all of the claimed features, as set forth above, except for a plurality of different electrical outlets. Cordelli discloses a plurality of different electrical outlets, as set forth above.

As to claim 110, the housing of Pas includes control equipment for the power station, as set forth above.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hal I. Kaplan whose telephone number is 571-272-8587. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on 571-272-2800 x36. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2836

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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BRIAN SIRCUS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800